

OBSERVATIONS ON *MITRA FLORIDA* GOULD

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Mitra florida has been the source of no little confusion to conchologists since its description in 1856 by Augustus A. Gould, inasmuch as the soft parts have heretofore not been obtained. The specimen found by A. H. Patterson mentioned by the author in the last Nautilus (55: 2, page 45) contained remnants of the animal too badly decomposed to be of use. Very recently, however, a living specimen, believed to be the first recorded, was dredged from 80 feet of water off Fisher Island, Dade County, Florida. It was collected November 8 by Mr. and Mrs. John Wentworth, to whom the author is much indebted for the privilege of examining the soft parts. The specimen was examined in the Zoology Laboratory of the University of Miami. Thanks are also due to Dr. F. G. Walton Smith of the Department of Zoology.

The shell of the living specimen, 49 mm. in length, conforms in all respects to the previous descriptions of the species. The shell is decidedly volutid in appearance, so much so that Dr. Gould referred to it as *Scaphella*.¹ Tryon said of it: "Its characters are intermediate between *Mitra* and *Voluta*. My figure is from Gould's type, and I can add nothing to the above meager information concerning this curious form."² Tryon also described and illustrated³ *Mitra fergusoni* Sowerby, which appears to be nothing more than a worn specimen of *Mitra florida*. For the convenience of those to whom it is not readily available, I here quote A. A. Gould's description of this mollusk:

MITRA (Scaphella) FLORIDA. T. ovato-fusiformis, solidula, albidula, ferrugineo nubeculata et lineis numerosis fuscis interruptis interdum albo articulatis cineta, quoad rostrum plicata et oblique lirata; anfraetibus 7 + ultimo spiram ter excedente, antice angustato: apertura angusta, postice acuta; labro acuto: columella sexplicata, plica postrema proximam bis superante; intus alba.⁴

¹ A. A. Gould, *Otia Conchologica*, page 221.

² Tryon, G. W., *Manual of Conchology*, iv, page 116, plate 34, fig. 35.

³ *Ibid.*, plate 34, fig. 32.

⁴ A. A. Gould, *Otia Conchologica*, page 221.

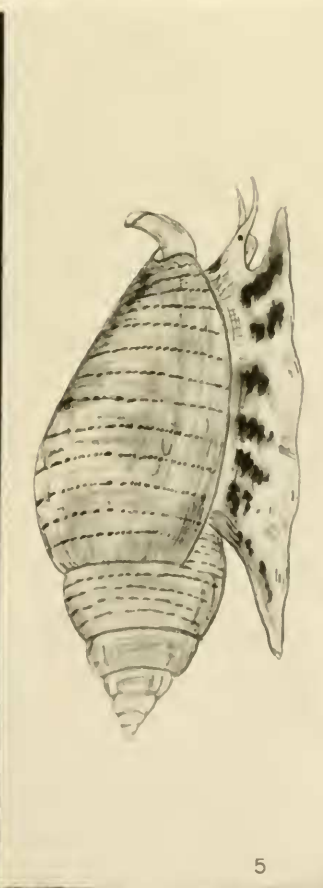
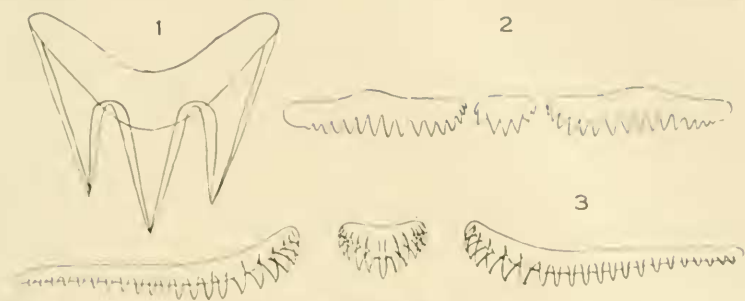


Fig. 1, tooth of *Voluta scapha* Gmel. (after Tryon). Fig. 2, teeth of *Mitra cornua* Lam. (after Tryon). Fig. 3, teeth of *Mitra florida*. Figs. 4, 5, *Mitra florida*, enlarged.

